

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A local network having a ring network configuration with a plurality of subscribers each connected within the ring network by a data line to transmit and receive data therebetween, the local network comprising:

a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network;

a second subscriber that receives decompressed audio data;

a third subscriber that receives decompressed video data,

a fourth subscriber that includes

(i) a bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed audio and video data and provides decompressed audio and video data;

(ii) a separation stage that receives the decompressed audio and video data and separates the decompressed audio and video data to provide the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal; and

(iii) a control unit that controls the transmission of the decompressed audio data signal and the decompressed video data signal onto the ring network

where the second, third and fourth subscribers each comprise a data sink and The local network of claim 5, where the second, third and fourth subscribers are separate from each other and connected within the ring network by the data line.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A local network having a ring network configuration with a plurality of subscribers each connected within the ring network by an optical data line to transmit and receive data therebetween, the local network comprising:

a first subscriber configured as a data source that transmits compressed audio and video data onto the ring network;

a second subscriber that receives the transmitted compressed audio and video data, where the second subscriber includes a separation stage that separates the compressed audio and video data to provide a compressed audio data signal and a compressed video data signal, and a control unit that controls the transmission of the compressed audio data signal and the compressed video data signal onto the ring network;

a third subscriber that receives the compressed audio data signal, where the third subscriber includes an audio bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed audio data signal and provides decompressed audio data, and a unit that reproduces the decompressed audio data; and

a fourth subscriber that receives the compressed video data signal, where the fourth subscriber includes a video audio bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed video data signal and provides decompressed video data, and a unit that reproduces the decompressed video data.